



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Regulations Governing Licensure of Respiratory Care Practitioners
Partial Suspension of Subchapter 9: Rule 9.9.1(1)

As a part of the waiver authority granted to the Bureau of Professional Licensure by the State Health Officer on April 23, 2020, in response to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Bureau is suspending that part of Subchapter 9: Rule 9.9.1(1) in the regulations that reads... “It shall be a violation of these regulations for an unlicensed student to receive compensation for providing respiratory care services. It shall also be a violation of these regulations to knowingly compensate an unlicensed student for providing respiratory care services.”

This waiver is subject to the conditions listed below.

Second-year Respiratory Care Practitioner (RCP) students enrolled in an accredited respiratory program will be allowed to be employed, to provide, and be compensated for the performance of limited low-risk respiratory therapy procedures in licensed hospitals. The RCP student must be issued a hospital identification badge and be identified as an “RCP Student” on the hospital identification badge. Said badge must be always worn in clear sight when the RCP student is on the premises of the hospital. They must also be identified as an “RCP Student” on their employment application and job description maintained in the hospital’s human resources department.

Second-year RCP students will always work under the direct supervision of a licensed RCP and the employing institution will complete and retain all documentation of competency, proficiency, and the ability of the RCP student to perform the approved procedures they are allowed to do.

The procedures authorized to be performed exclusively outside a critical care area and are:

- Set-up and monitoring of low-flow oxygen (e.g., less than or equal to 6 LPM)
- Non-exotic aerosol therapy (bronchodilators, anticholinergics, etc.)
- Hyperinflation and airway clearance therapy
- Electrocardiograms
- Equipment cleaning, stocking, transporting, etc.
- Once an RCP student is certified in Basic Life Support they may assist in cardiorespiratory arrests at the discretion of the employing institution

This waiver shall be effective so long as the blanket waiver issued by HHS on March 30, 2020 is in effect.

Signed this twenty-eighth day of September 2022

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Daniel P. Edney, MD, MPH
State Health Officer